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HOUSE BILL 1650 By
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SENATE BILL 1897
By Cooper J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-102; Section 3-1-103; Title 3; Section 4-15-102; Section 49-9-401 and Section 49-50-603, relative to the general assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 16, is amended by deleting part 1 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 3-16-101.

(a) There is created the office of legislative information systems for the general assembly, which has the duty to:

(1) Operate a legislative computer system and computer networks to assist the speaker of the house of representatives and the speaker of the senate, members of the general assembly, the legislative committees, and the staff of the general assembly in the performance of their respective duties;

(2) Cooperate and consult with the chief clerk of the senate, the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the directors of all staff offices of the general assembly in

developing and maintaining computer systems, computer networks, computer equipment and services required for the operation of such offices;

(3) Advise the joint legislative services committee on matters relating to computer services, software, hardware and computer system needs and functions of the legislative computer system and computer networks;

(4) Maintain on its legislative computer system the complete text of Tennessee Code Annotated for the use of the general assembly and its staff and the Tennessee code commission and its staff;

(5) Coordinate and administer the scheduling and use of the computer system and networks and computer system capacity to facilitate application of computer and other technology for the storage and retrieval of all of the financial, factual, procedural, legal and other information and data necessary to serve all of the committees, officers, staff and agencies of the general assembly;

(6) Import data and information from the institutions of higher education, the judicial and executive branches of government, the federal government, local governments and the private sector which is necessary for the members and staff of the general assembly to perform the functions of the legislative branch. It is the duty of such entities to furnish such information promptly and, if so requested, in an electronic format;

(7) Maintain a legislative website on the internet to provide information on the general assembly;

(8) Arrange for the copying, printing, distribution, and sale of copies of proposed legislation, amendments to proposed legislation, and other legislative acts, reports, or publications, except for such publications which are prepared by the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives;

(9) Cooperate with similar agencies of other states, with the council of state governments, with the national conference of state legislatures and with other interstate research organizations;

(10) Collect, summarize, index, publish and distribute information relating to legislative policies and the status of legislation;

(11) Provide personnel to assist and train the members and staff of the general assembly on the legislative computer system;

(12) Provide technical assistance on the legislative computer system and networks to the members and staff of the general assembly on the floor of either house, at the request of the speaker of the house of representatives or the speaker of the senate; and

(13) Perform all other duties that the joint legislative services committee, the speakers, or the general assembly may deem essential to the efficient operation of the legislative branch.

(b) Any record obtained by the office of legislative information systems from an institution of higher education, the executive branch or the judicial branch which is designated "confidential" pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 7, or any other state law, shall not be open for inspection by members of the public and shall be treated as a confidential record in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 7, or other such state law. These records shall be destroyed in such a manner that they cannot be read, interpreted or reconstructed. Confidential information shall be redacted wherever possible and nothing in this subsection shall be used to limit or deny access to otherwise public information because a file, a document, or data file contains confidential information if it is practicable to redact such information. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to close any personnel records of public officers which are currently open under state law.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit access to confidential information when the employee expressly authorizes the release of such information.

Section 3-16-102.

The joint legislative services committee shall appoint, subject to the approval of the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, a director of legislative information systems, who shall be a graduate of an accredited college or university and shall have not less than five (5) years of practical experience in computer technology, including administrative and technical responsibility for developing and implementing a comprehensive computer system and networks which are capable of transmitting and receiving information and data from other computer networks and the internet. The director and other personnel shall be chosen without reference to party affiliation but solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the committee. The committee shall determine the compensation of the director, while the compensation of other personnel shall be determined by the committee upon recommendation of the director. Personnel shall be employed on recommendation of the director with the approval of the speakers.

Section 3-16-103.

The joint legislative services committee shall, through the office of legislative information systems, control, operate, and maintain the legislative computer system and computer networks and the use of computer equipment and programs in the legislative branch. The committee shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines for such system. The provisions of § 3-10-104 shall be applicable to such policies, procedures, and guidelines.

Section 3-16-104.

Suitable office space and facilities shall be provided in Nashville convenient to the general assembly.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 11, is amended by deleting part 1 in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-102, is amended by deleting the language "office of management information services" wherever it appears and by substituting instead the language "office of legislative information systems".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-103, is amended by deleting the language "office of management information services" wherever it appears and by substituting instead the language "office of legislative information systems".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-2-110(d)(1), is amended by deleting the language "legislative services" and by substituting instead the language "legislative information systems".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-105(a), is amended by deleting the language "The office of legislative services, the" and by substituting instead the language "The".

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-105(a), is further amended by deleting the language "management information" and by substituting instead the language "legislative information".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-15-102(e)(1), is amended by deleting the language "office of legislative services" and by substituting instead the language "department of finance and administration".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-9-401(b)(3), is amended by deleting the language "office of legislative services".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-7-103(c), is amended by deleting the language "office of legislative services" and by substituting instead the language "office of legislative information systems".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(a)(1), is amended by deleting the language "management information systems" and by substituting instead the language "information systems".

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(a)(2), is amended by deleting the language "electronic data processing system and services provided by the legislative management information services" and by substituting instead the language "legislative computer system and computer networks provided by the office of legislative information systems".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(b), is amended by deleting the language "ten (10)" and by substituting instead the language "nine (9)".

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(b), is further amended by deleting the language "the director of the office of legislative services,".

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(b), is further amended by deleting the language "management information services" and by substituting instead the language "legislative information systems".

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-10-107(b), is further amended by deleting the language "electronic data processing system" and by substituting the language "legislative computer system and computer networks".

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.